

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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The U.S. 301 corridor has been the subject of considerable study since the early 1960s. Two of the more recent studies that explored ways of improving travel along U.S. 301 were conducted in the 1990s. First, the *U.S. 301 Corridor Study* (VHB 1993) sought an improved connection from U.S. 301 at the Delaware-Maryland state line from west of Middletown to I-95. As a result of this study, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) announced in 1994 that any future highway improvements to U.S. 301 would occur along the “Ridge Alternative” south of the C&D Canal, and along the existing SR 00896 corridor north of the canal (DelDOT website).

In 2000, the *Greater U.S. 301 Major Investment Study* (MIS) (VHB 2000) evaluated additional prospects for regional transportation planning and ways of integrating transportation and land use. The MIS recommended east-west roadway capacity improvements south of the canal linking U.S. 301 and SR 1.

The effort to improve U.S. 301 has now entered the project development phase. A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was published in the Federal Register on January 18, 2005. The Section 106 process was initiated by a letter dated January 26, 2005. As was recommended by the MIS, this phase will evaluate improvements to U.S. 301 extending south of the C&D Canal to the Delaware-Maryland border and east to SR 1.

As part of Section 106 compliance during the project development phase, A.D. Marble & Company of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, conducted a cultural resources planning study, including background research and an architectural resource reconnaissance survey of the APE (Figure 1) and formulated a historic context for proposed corridor improvements to U.S. 301. This Historic Context and Reconnaissance Survey Report presents the results of the cultural resource planning study. This report was prepared in conjunction with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl (RK&K) for the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to assist in the identification of historic properties within the vicinity of the proposed roadway improvements.



U.S. 301 Project Development
Historic Context and
Reconnaissance Survey Report

 Reconnaissance Level APE



Sources:
USGS 30"x60" DRGs: Wilmington, DE, Dover, DE.

Figure 1
Project Location Map



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